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June 29, 2005

Mr. J. I. Palmer, Jr., Regional Administrator  
U.S. EPA, Region 4  
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303

RE: June 2005 Early Action Progress Report

Dear Mr. Palmer:

South Carolina Early Action Compacts identify "key" milestones that are required for the continued deferral of the effective date of nonattainment designations and also milestones that track the progress being made by the state and local areas toward adoption and implementation of emission reduction measures. This correspondence identifies the progress made by South Carolina and participating areas since the December 2004 submittal. Enclosure 1 includes the June 2005 Progress Report for each participating county, grouped by the following areas:

Appalachian: Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg  
Catawba: Chester, Lancaster, Union, York  
Pee Dee: Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion, Marlboro  
Waccamaw: Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg  
Santee Lynches: Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter  
Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester: Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester  
Low Country: Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper  
Lower Savannah: Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Orangeburg  
Central Midlands: Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland  
Upper Savannah: Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, Saluda

In addition to the progress indicated by each county on the enclosed reports, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (Department) continues to be involved with the counties in a number of other projects that benefit air quality. A few of these include landscaping projects, gas can exchange events, radio public service announcements, and a variety of activities promoting South Carolina's Ozone Awareness Week. In March 2005, Governor Mark Sanford proclaimed March 28 – April 1, 2005, as Ozone Awareness Week. Beginning March 8, staff provided weekly messages (Enclosure 2) to all Early Action Compact (EAC) contacts providing information and materials that could be used to promote awareness of ground-level ozone. Details of the activities individual county activities are included on the enclosed reports.

In an effort to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality, in the Midlands of South Carolina, the South Carolina Department of Transportation will not charge commuter fares for SmartRide on "Ozone Action days." SmartRide's Newberry and Camden routes both average about 22 riders a day. If ridership increases to full capacity a total of 100 cars could be off the road on "Ozone Action Days."

As stated in the March 2004 submittal, both the 2007 future year modeling emissions inventory and the attainment maintenance analysis have been completed. Information regarding these two EAC milestones, as well as information regarding the modeled control cases was addressed in the Early Action State Implementation Plan (SIP) submitted to EPA on December 29, 2004. Additionally, on April 20, 2005, the Department submitted clarifying supplemental information to the EAC SIP submittal (Enclosure 3). The correspondence included a document demonstrating the continued commitment of the participants in the EAC process including counties, agencies, universities, organizations, businesses, industries and environmental groups. The efforts of these groups continue to be, a marvelous example of partnerships in many directions. Each of these diverse parties continues to come together for a worthy common goal.

Thank you for the continued assistance and support EPA has provided in this process. We look forward to continuing to work with EPA and other stakeholders as we implement measures to achieve cleaner air sooner for our citizens. Should you have questions or desire additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (803) 896-8940 or Myra Reece, Chief of the Bureau of Air Quality at (803) 898-4123.

Sincerely,

*William G. Deland*

*for* Robert W. King, Jr., P.E.  
Deputy Commissioner  
Environmental Quality Control

- Enclosure 1: June 2005 Progress Reports for Participating Areas  
Enclosure 2: Copy of Ozone Awareness Week Proclamation by Governor Sanford  
Copy of weekly correspondence with EAC contacts  
Enclosure 3: Copy of April 20, 2005 correspondence to Mr. James Palmer

cc: Kay Prince, EPA Region 4  
County Officials (no attachments\*)  
Ron Methier, GA Dept. of Natural Resources (no attachments\*)  
Keith Overcash, NC Dept. of Environmental and Natural Resources (no attachments\*)  
Myra Reece (no attachments\*)  
Renee Shealy (no attachments\*)  
EQC District Directors (no attachments\*)

\*All those not receiving attachments will be notified when materials are placed on website.